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CENTENNIAL ADDRESS

DELIVERED IN

HOLLISTON, JULY 4, 1876,

BY

REV. E. DOWSE.

PUBLISHED BY THE TOWN.

J. C. CLARK, PRINTER, SO. FRAMINGHAM, MASS.
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Dowse, Edmund.

Centennial address delivered in Holliston, July 4, 1876, by Rev. E. Dowse. Pub. by the town. So. Framingham, Mass., J. C. Clark, printer, 1877.

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SHELF CARD

1. Holliston, Mass.—Hist.

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HOLLISTON, April 28th, 1877.

Reverend Dear Sir:

The legal voters of Holliston, at their annual Town Meeting, instructed the Selectmen to apply to you for a copy of your discourse delivered in this town on the 4th of July, 1876, in commemoration of the One Hundredth Year of our nation's Independence.

We therefore, respectfully, in behalf of said town, solicit a copy for publication.

ALDEN LELAND,
F. A. STONE,
JOHN H. MAHONEY,
} *Selectmen.*

Attest, JOHN D. SHIPPEE, *Town Clerk.*

REV. EDMUND DOWSE, Sherborn, Mass.

SHERBORN, MASS., May, 1877.

Gentlemen,—

I have received at your hand the vote of the Town of Holliston, applying through you, for a copy of my centennial address on the 4th of July, 1876. Although it may be unworthy of the occasion, still it is a compilation of facts in the history of the town that it may be well to preserve for future use. I therefore place it at your disposal. In doing so I acknowledge the courtesy and helpfulness of those gentlemen who placed in my hands records and documents which have furnished much of the material of this discourse, and without which I could not have prepared it in the short time allowed me for the purpose.

Respectfully yours,

EDMUND DOWSE.

ALDEN LELAND,
F. A. STONE,
JOHN H. MAHONEY,
} *Selectmen.*

JOHN D. SHIPPEE, *Town Clerk.*

ADDRESS.

Friends and Fellow Citizens:

Though a native and life resident of the old town of which Holliston was primarily a part, yet, I have hesitated to address you on this proud day in our national history; first, from a sense of personal inability, and secondly, because of the limited time allowed for the arrangement of the material for such an occasion. Willing, however, to bear some part in the services of this centennial celebration, I yield to the importunity of your committee, and now offer the result of my short and imperfect researches into the archives of the town.

THE ORIGIN AND SETTLEMENT OF THE TOWN.

The territory now comprised in the town was explored as early as 1659. We are informed that in that year Major Eleazer Lushur, of Dedham, received from the General Court a grant of land that now constitutes the central part of the town. This land he sold the next year to Lieut. Henry Adams of Medfield, who occupied it as a place of pasturage for his cattle.

One of his sons, Jasper Adams, came here as herdsman, and established his camp near the foot of the hill, from the top of which he is supposed to have communicated by signal fires with his father at his home in Medfield; whence the name of "Jasper's Hill." The second proprietor of land in this territory was Wm. Sheffield who, like Lieut. Adams, resided in Medfield. There were no actual settlements of families here until after the incorporation of Sherborn in 1674. Then proprietors of grants made previous to this time, in view of inducements offered, began to settle upon this land. In 1682 a second division of the common lands in Sherborn, including all now in Holliston, was made, and John Hill, Benj. Bullard, Obadiah Morse, Jonathan Morse and Edmund West purchased two thousand acres of land for £10. These men and their families constituted the nucleus of the subsequent town. The number of settlers, however, remained small for a long time. They continued to form a part of Sherborn for about fifty years, and in 1723, when they petitioned to be incorporated as a town, there were only thirteen subscribers, this number including a majority of the land holders, and probably all but five. The population at this time was about one hundred souls. The town was incorporated on this wise: The people of the two settlements had lived peaceably together as citizens and as Christians for fifty years, and probably did not at first anticipate a separation. But the time in their history had now come when they must build a new meeting house, and it was desirable to place it where it would accommodate all the worshipers. Before this time,

the people in the west part had come a long distance to what is now the central part of Sherborn, to the place of worship. This they began to feel was too great a burden, and they desired that the new house should be located nearer to that part of the town. Their feelings and wishes were duly considered, and an effort was made to place the new meeting house midway between the two settlements. A meeting of the legal voters was held about a half mile east of East Holliston depot, and it was voted to build the new house there on the rising ground. This speaks well for the spirit of accommodation existing between the two settlements, and if they had continued as one town, it would have been a wise arrangement. But both parties had the good sense to see that this arrangement would not be satisfactory and they subsequently reconsidered their vote. They foresaw that the time would come, if it had not already come, when the interests of the settlements would require two houses of worship, and they concluded on an amicable separation. The inhabitants on the west side of Dopping Brook, in view of the proposed separation, asked the town of Sherborn to grant them certain rights and exemptions, and the town voted to grant the request "for the sake of future peace and good neighborhood." It is pleasant to know that the two towns once united, separated so amicably, and we very reasonably conclude that their friendship was the seed corn of the good fellowship that has continued until the present time.

In 1723, thirteen free-holders petitioned the General Court to be set off from Sherborn, and their petition

was granted, and the town was incorporated Dec. 3, 1724. It comprised fifteen thousand and eighty-six acres, and was named Holliston in token of respect for Thomas Hollis of London, a patron of the University in Cambridge, who acknowledged the compliment by a gift of an elegant Bible for the pulpit. The first town meeting was held immediately after the act of incorporation at the house of Timothy Leland, about half a mile from the nail factory, toward Ashland. The place is at present occupied by A. J. Travis. At this time, five selectmen and the other requisite officers were chosen and the organization was completed. There was some doubt at this period in regard to the location of the meeting house, which would constitute the centre of the town. At first, ground was selected for the purpose near the nail factory, but a gift of three acres of land by Col. Brown of Salem, for town purposes, led the people to fix upon the spot, upon and around which we now stand. So that at this date we have the town of Holliston incorporated, organized and equipped as a civil community.

HISTORY OF HOME AND INDUSTRIAL PURSUITS.

Starting from this point the town has made one hundred and fifty years of history. It begins with a larger territory than the mother town, but its population is small in comparison, and everything is primitive and unsettled. There is arduous work to be done in every department of society, but those men and women were equal, under God, to the task. They were plain and simple in their manners and habits,

but they were enterprising and efficient workers. They naturally, in the first instance, endeavored to provide homes and sustenance for their families. Their houses were usually small — often rude in their structure — and roughly furnished, and their furniture, dress, equipage, and general style of living were correspondingly simple and unexpensive. They were all farmers and looked of course to the lands for their support. The men cleared away the forests, broke up the fallow ground, tilled the fields, gathered the harvests, tended the flocks and herds, and performed the out-door work of the settlement. In the wild and unsubdued state of the soil at that time, and with the tools and implements then in use, this must have been a difficult and tedious process. The women of that day not only performed the work that is now regarded as the part of the neat and tidy housewife, but they carded and spun the wool and wove most of the cloth worn by the family. Not only so, but they often assisted in the work of the farm, and more especially in the sale of its products. The means of intercommunication and transportation were very scanty and imperfect. There were a few leading highways, but the roads were mostly narrow foot paths, made at first by the Indian's trail on the track of wild beasts, and sufficient only for one or at most for two persons to travel. The men, women and children rode along these paths on horseback, often two and sometimes three on a single animal. They traveled in this way from house to house, to church on the Sabbath, and often performed long journeys to other towns and settlements. They transported the products of the

farms to the mill and to the market town on horseback. This was often the work of the women. Two or more, sometimes a company of half a dozen good dames from Holliston and Sherborn would start with their horses loaded down with eggs and butter, and ride all night to Boston, and having disposed of their loads return the succeeding day, not as much fatigued as many now are who go in town in the morning in the cars, spend the day in shopping and return at evening. This condition of things in the homes and business continued essentially the same for a long period. The people were engaged as a whole in reclaiming and tilling the lands. The shoemaker, blacksmith, carpenter and storekeeper were regarded only as adjuncts to society. It was convenient to have just enough mechanics and tradesmen to meet the wants of the people, and they desired no more. Even these did not pretend to live by their trades, but in addition cultivated their lands. Under these conditions the population continued to increase slowly from year to year, and the outward circumstances of the people to improve. At the end of the first century the population had grown from one hundred to thirteen hundred. During this period the town was healthy, with one exception of short duration. Between the 18th of December, 1753, and the 30th of January, 1754, a distressing and fatal sickness prevailed that resulted in the death of fifty-three persons, it being more than one-eighth of the population at that time. This sickness, both in its nature and cause, appears to have been involved in mystery. That it had a natural cause, I do not doubt, but as it was con-

fined to the limited period of four or six weeks, having never appeared before or since, it does not militate against the healthfulness of the locality. The average number of deaths annually, during the first century was seven. This includes the period of the great sickness.

During the last part of the first century the town received a new impulse both in respect to business and population. At that time men who had manufactured shoes on a moderate scale began to extend their operations; men of enterprise and thrift came into the place and established themselves in the same business; new shops sprang up on every side, until the shoe and boot trade assumed large proportions. It furnished employment for many young men and citizens who would otherwise have left the town and it attracted many more from abroad. It may not be inappropriate on this occasion to give a more detailed account of the rise of this business in town. The first manufacturer was Col. Ariel Bragg. He commenced business in 1793, with forty pounds of sole leather and four calf skins, from which he made twenty-two pairs of shoes which he carried to Providence in saddle bags, on horseback, with a bundle of hay behind him; and having disposed of his goods for $21.50, returned and invested his gains in new stock. In 1800 and 1810 Hezekiah and Jonathan Bullard began business on a similar scale. In 1816 Dea. Timothy Rockwood began to manufacture goods and transport them to the Boston market in a horse cart. In 1821 the names of Batchelder, Currier, Littlefield and others were added to the list of manufacturers, all doing

business upon small capital and transporting their goods and stock themselves in their one-horse wagons. To the Lelands, Johnsons and others of the present, this may seem a day of small things, but it was a day of important transactions, and these men were the founders, the Nestors of the boot and shoe trade in this town. Dating back as far as 1820 the business has had a rapid and healthy growth, until in 1874 it furnished employment for six hundred persons, and produced goods to the amount of $1,000,000. Although this has been the principal, the most lucrative and the controlling business, yet other branches of manufactures have performed an important part in the drama of trade.

The mill property of Hon. Elihu Cutler, now occupied and improved under the name of the Payson and Cutler manufacturing company, with a capital of $50,000, has long been the scene of an active and thrifty business. The manufacture of straw hats and bonnets, commenced by Charles and George Leland in 1815, and continued by Messrs. Thayer, Slocom and Mowry; the factories and shops for making nails, pumps and other wares, have each contributed to the wealth and prosperity of the town. The opening of the railroad through the village, July 4, 1847, furnished new and greater facilities for all kinds of business, and made the town a more desirable place of residence. In 1854, the Holliston Bank was incorporated with a capital of $100,000. Wm. S. Batchelder was chosen president, and held the position until the time of his death, a period of twenty years. In 1872, Holliston's Savings Bank was organized with Hon.

Alden Leland, president. These banks have never suffered by indiscreet management or embezzlement, but have been conducted upon sound principles, and are now in a healthy condition.

Meanwhile, the population, the dwellings, the stores, and the shops have been increasing from year to year, until, in place of the few scattered homes of a century ago, there is now a large and flourishing village, and the original one hundred souls has grown to three thousand, three hundred and ninety-nine. The valuation has increased in the same ratio. I have not the data for 1724 nor 1824, but think that in 1824 it could not have exceeded $700,000 and now it is $2,000,000. During the last fifty years the village has undergone a complete change, in its roads and streets, in its private residences and public buildings. They indicate not only an increase of wealth, but also refinement and civilization. A number of the men who have been prominent in this growth and improvement of the town have recently passed away. Such were Drs. Fiske and Burnap, Elias Bullard and William S. Batchelder.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

The first settlers of Holliston were in no respect behind their fellow Puritans in their zeal to secure educational privileges. Before the incorporation of the town, the few families living in the west part of Sherborn probably secured instruction for their children in their own houses at private expense. In 1731, seven years after the incorporation of the town, the

citizens, at a legal meeting, voted to appropriate a sum of money for the support of a school for reading and writing. In 1738, seven years later, the town was divided into three districts, and it was voted to build a school house in each district. It was provided, that those in the north and west should be fourteen by eighteen feet, seven-foot posts, and the one in the centre sixteen by twenty feet. These were small structures, but they were sufficiently large to accommodate the scholars, and with the old open fireplace, they would not be in danger of suffering either from want of ventilation or an excess of heat. The house erected at that time in the centre district remained in use until 1804. These districts have been divided and sub-divided from time to time, to meet the necessities of the growing population, until at present there are sixteen schools, seven hundred and thirteen scholars; and property in sites and school buildings amounting to $25,000. The appropriation of money for school purposes — though increased from time to time and doubtless as large in proportion as that of other towns in the state during the first century — seems now to have been moderate. In 1824 the amount raised was $600. Since that time the annual appropriation has grown rapidly, until in 1875 it was $6,000. In the first part of the last half-century, from 1824 to 1830, a new and lively interest was awakened in literature, science and politics, that fruited in debating clubs, lyceums and lectures, which exerted a salutary and important influence upon the town at the time, and I doubt not have reached down to this day. At that time the interest in education began to

deepen, and the result is that during the last fifty years, the school houses have been rebuilt and modelled upon scientific principles, the qualifications of teachers have been advanced, new facilities have been furnished for study and improvement in the Primary and Grammar schools, and provision has been made for education in the higher English branches and the classics.

In 1835 an English and classical school was opened by Master Rice, which was patronized largely by the people of Holliston and the adjoining towns. This was supplemented by Mt. Hollis Academy, which was instituted and conducted by Master Walker and others until it was finally absorbed in a permanent High School. These schools have not only been instrumental in the diffusion of intelligence and refinement amongst the people and thus fitting them for domestic and business life, but they have resulted in influencing quite a large number of young men to obtain a collegiate education. The graduates in 1854 were twenty-eight; of the exact number during the last twenty years, I am not informed. They have entered the different professions and have exerted a mighty influence upon society at home and abroad. Thus it would seem that education has always occupied *the* place in the social and civil fabric assigned it by the Puritans and Pilgrims. It has been one of the main pillars — supported and strengthened as the nation has grown in years. The continuance and prosperity of the Republic has been, and will be in time to come, in a very important sense, dependent upon the intelligence of the people, and that intelligence must be the out-growth of our system of education. Holliston has

been favored in having not only a ministry but other professional men who were liberally educated, and who were interested to raise the standard of education in the town.

THE RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.

The Christian church and religion occupy the most important place in the history of the town. This results not only from the intrinsic worth of christianity, and from its relation to the stability and prosperity of civil society, but from the prominence given it by our early fathers. It was their first business, after providing for themselves a habitation, to build an altar and a house of the Lord. It was especially stipulated in the act of incorporation, that the inhabitants should forthwith make provision for the public worship of God. The free-holders of the town, at the second meeting after their incorporation, voted to erect a meeting house thirty-two by forty feet, with twenty-foot posts. After some doubt and wavering in regard to its location, they decided upon the south side of Jasper's Hill, where the Town House now stands. The foundation of this house was laid in 1726 and it was completed in 1728 at a cost of £200. At this time a church of eight members was organized and a minister was ordained and settled as pastor. The meeting house was from this time a place of public worship, but it was not seated and orderly appointed according to the notions of the day until twenty-one years later. In 1772 it was repaired and enlarged, and remained the only house of

worship until the erection of the present Congregational church in 1822. That meeting house is supposed to be still here, but it has been so often enlarged and remodelled, that it is very difficult to recognize anything that belonged to the original structure. During the first century the Congregational church had four pastors — James Stone, Joshua Prentiss, Timothy Dickinson, Josephus Wheaton — all men of thorough academic and theological training, of unimpeached worth and Christian integrity, and earnest and faithful workers in laying the foundations of society. These men died in the field where they had sowed the seed and gathered in the spiritual harvest. During the last fifty years this church has had eight pastors — Charles Fitch, Elijah Demond, John Storrs, T. P. D. Stone, Joshua T. Tucker, Wm. H. Savage, Henry S. Kelsey and Geo. M. Adams. Seven of these have each in their turn performed an important work, and most of them are still engaged in active service as ministers of Christ. The present incumbent has but recently entered the field, and may he long remain a landmark of the century upon which we are now entering. The Congregational church has passed through many trials and afflictions, but it has never been dismembered, and it has grown steadily in numbers and influence, and was never more strong and flourishing than to-day. The whole number of members from Nov. 20, 1728 to July 4, 1876 is thirteen hundred and forty-six. The present number is three hundred and ninety-one, of whom forty-five have been added this year.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

The Sabbath school, though comparatively a modern institution, has performed so important a part in the moral and religious training of the town, that it should receive a passing notice in this historical sketch. It was the custom of the pastors in early times to visit the families and instruct the children in the facts and doctrines of the Bible. During the pastorate of Rev. Joshua Prentiss, the children were accustomed to go to the parsonage on Sabbath noons, where they were instructed in the Catechism by one of the members of the family. When the number of scholars became too large for a private room, they went to the Parish Hall, where classes were formed and teachers provided to meet the exigencies of the case. This was the beginning of the school in Holliston. From this time its growth was gradual, and it was not properly and permanently organized until the pastorate of Rev. Josephus Wheaton. Dea. Timothy Rockwood was the first superintendent. The number of scholars at that time was from forty to fifty. In 1876, the school connected with the Congregational church numbers three hundred and fifty, with corresponding appointments of superintendent and classes.

There are other religious institutions that came into being during the last half-century, and that should be mentioned to-day.

THE METHODIST SOCIETY.

In 1831 a Methodist church was organized in the

town. From an early date there were some citizens of the town who belonged to this denomination, and these were increased by the influx of population from abroad, so that it was deemed expedient to organize a separate religious enterprise. The society was small and feeble at first, but it has grown in numbers and wealth until it long since has not only become a fixed fact, but a great moral and Christian force in the community. It erected a house of worship in 1833, and this, enlarged and improved, is their present place of public worship. Thirty different preachers have labored in this field. A Sabbath school has been connected with the church from the beginning. It commenced with a membership of fifty; the first superintendent was I. G. Rawson; it now numbers one hundred and fifty. This is one of the most influential churches of its name in the neighborhood.

BAPTIST SOCIETY.

The first Baptist society was organized Aug. 28, 1860. In 1867, after passing through the trials and discouragements incidental to the beginning of such an enterprise, they erected and partially finished a house of worship. In 1870 this was completed and dedicated to the worship of God. This commodious and tasteful house now stands upon the corner of Washington and Charles Streets. This church has had five pastors: Revs. B. A. Edwards, J. L. A. Fish, Geo. W. Holman, Robert G. Johnson, and Albert A. Bennett. This church has become established and now seems to have a promising future. The number

of members at the time of its organization was nineteen; present number one hundred and twenty, of whom thirty-five have been added this year. The Sabbath school was organized Feb. 20, 1860, with a membership of nineteen, A. G. Fitch, superintendent; present membership one hundred and forty-two.

These different societies have existed here side by side in harmony and good fellowship, and are now exerting a powerful moral influence upon the whole community. There is also a Catholic church here, embracing a large foreign population in this and the neighboring towns. They have erected a substantial and tasteful house of worship in the centre of the village.

TEMPERANCE ORGANIZATIONS.

There is one moral enterprise that belongs to the last half century that should have a place in this historical record. I refer to the temperance reformation. The first temperance society was organized July 7, 1827, under the name of "Holliston Society for the Promotion of Temperance." This required only abstinence from distilled liquors; but this was the first and an important step in the right direction. As new light has been evolved, higher ground has been taken, until total abstinence from the use and sale of all intoxicating drinks is the basis upon which this reformation now rests. During the present year the cause has received a fresh impulse, and it is believed that this Centennial year will be a new and bright era in the history of temperance in this com-

munity. At the present time there are three organizations, numbering in all seven hundred and eight members. This is a good record for future generations.

WAR RECORD.

I hasten to speak of that which seems especially appropriate to this day—*the Patriotism* of the People, particularly in the achievement of our national independence, and the preservation of our free institutions. The early fathers were in warm sympathy with their fellow-colonists in their hatred of injustice and oppression and their longings for civil freedom. In anticipation of war with England, they began in 1731 to collect military stores for the conflict In 1768 they resolved to take all prudent and legal measures to encourage home manufactures and to discountenance and prevent foreign importations. In the spirit of this resolution they voted to use no gloves at funerals but such as were made in the province, and to purchase no new garments for these occasions but such as were absolutely necessary. During the years 1770 and 1775, inclusive, they were represented in county assemblies in Boston and Concord for the purpose of devising and recommending such measures as the existing state of things demanded. In 1775 they voted to act in accordance with the advice of the Continental Congress and resolved that no man should hold any town office who refused or neglected to subscribe his consent to this document. There was great unanimity of feeling and action in respect to the war of the Revolution, and when it came in full force, they

staked their all upon the issue. They sacrificed property, hazarded, and in many cases lost their lives in the struggle. Of the number of names of officers and soldiers who served in that war it is impossible to speak with certainty. The names of Col. Abner Perry, Maj. Jacob Miller, Capt. Daniel Eames, are conspicuous upon the record. Prompt, decided, energetic, self-sacrificing, and heroic — they bore an important and honorable part in achieving the independence which to-day is celebrated the one-hundredth time. Those were noble men, chosen, elect and precious! They contended for the right, and they won and rejoiced in their achievements, but they had no conception of the great and glorious results as we see them to-day. The loyalty of the town in subsequent years appears in its records and in the character of the men chosen to preside over its affairs and to represent it in the councils of the state.

But the patriotism of the nation was destined to a severe test in the war of 1861-5. Then the Union and liberty were imperilled — not by a foreign enemy, but by a foe within our own territory. The North and South — fellow-citizens, friends and brothers, — were arrayed against each other. It seemed an unnatural and bitter thing to wage a civil war, but the friends of the old flag, the lovers of liberty in its broadest and purest sense were unwilling to become the victims of injustice and oppression, and witness the destruction of the Republic which had started so well and flourished so long. It was a great and most important crisis. The question was to be decided, whether we should then go down into an ignominious

grave, or should live on in growing prosperity, as we find ourselves to-day. The interest and enthusiasm of the friends of the Union were enkindled and fanned into a bright and quenchless flame. They resolved to contend for the old flag to the bitter end, and for four terrible years they waged one of the most expensive and bloody wars upon record. Into this war the people of Holliston, men, women and children, entered with their whole soul. They gave their money, they furnished 354 men for the field as soldiers; of whom many received honorable wounds in battle, and thirty-six laid down their lives. The soldiers in that war who survive, should congratulate themselves and receive special honors from the citizens on this occasion. We realize that we owe it to you and your comrades, under God, that we have gained our cause, and that we see this centennial anniversary. That was a fearful war, and it seems now almost marvelous that we could have been so wrought upon as to be willing to engage in and prosecute it, but by the help of God we triumphed, and the Union was preserved, and the old flag waves to-day, proclaiming the one-hundredth year of the Republic of the United States of America. Occupying our present standpoint, reviewing our own colonial history, we do not forget that we constitute a part of a nation that makes to-day a most wonderful record in the civil annals of the world.

The government founded by our fathers in great weakness, and of the continuance of which they had many doubts and fears, has survived a hundred years, and now presents an example of growth in territorial extent, in population, wealth, industrial art, science

and learning, and in everything that belongs to civil greatness, that is unprecedented in the history of nations. This Republic, as it now exists, is essentially the fruit of Christian civilization. It is not the result of a union of church and state, but it is the result of a government founded and administered upon Christian principles, and by Christian men. If this nation is to continue long and flourish, and I believe it is to be the great civil and Christian arena of the world, it must be practically controlled by an enlightened and Christian people. While to-day we review the past with respect and veneration for our ancestors, and thankfulness and praise to God, let us look forward with cheerfulness and hope to the future.

On this first day of the new century we come, one and all, around the Old Flag and renew our vows of allegiance to our Country and our God.

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APPENDIX.

J. F. FISKE.

Deeming that this record of the observance of the Centennial Anniversary of the Nation's Independence in Holliston would be more complete with some note of the manner in which the day was observed, and the plans which were laid and matured for that event, the following lines are submitted by the author at the request of the Selectmen:

On the evening of June 13th, 1876, at a meeting of citizens held at the Town Hall, called to take into consideration the propriety of complying with the request of the President of the United States as to the proper observance of the Centennial Celebration of the Fourth of July, 1876, C. C. Abbott called the meeting to order, and he with C. W. Ellis and S. E. Carr were appointed a committee to retire and bring in a list of officers. Having attended to their duty, they reported the names of Abel Pond, Esq., as chairman, and J. F. Fiske, secretary, and they were elected and attended to their duties. Subsequently Messrs. C. C. Abbott, W. L. Payson and G. K. Manning were

appointed a committee to retire and report a list of canvassers for the procurement of funds wherewith to carry out the proposed celebration, and Messrs. C. S. Wilder, G. H. Eames, C. C. Abbott, C. W. Ellis, F. E. Littlefield, G. K. Manning, O. D. Freeman and E. M. Battles were nominated and chosen that committee with instructions to attend to their duties and report at an adjourned meeting, June 17th.

At the meeting of June 17th, the report of the canvassing committee was favorable, and the following gentlemen were made the executive committee: Abel Pond, C. C. Abbott, F. A. Stone, C. W. Ellis, J. F. Fiske, W. L. Payson, Z. Talbot, B. A. Bridges, E. W. Colburn, C. S. Wilder, S. M. Cutler, B. F. Willey, Geo. Batcheider, O. D. Freeman, G. H. Eames. At a meeting of this committee, June 19th, it organized with Abel Pond as chairman, C. S. Wilder, secretary and J. F. Fiske, treasurer. Rev. E. Dowse of Sherborn was invited to deliver the Historical Address; Hon. Alden Leland made president of the day, and D. C. Mowry, D. W. Freeman, Abel Pond, C. C. Abbott, S. M. Cutler, F. A. Stone, W. L. Payson, P. R. Johnson, Orrin Thomson, E. F. Whiting and J. F. Fiske vice presidents; B. A. Bridges was appointed chief marshal, and he selected the following aids: J. D. Shippee, A. E. Chamberlain, J. L. Wilkinson, J. W. Conger and J. S. French. C. S. Wilder was selected as toast master, and G. Y. Washburn to read the Declaration of Independence. The secretary was ordered to issue letters of invitation to the following gentlemen: Rev. J. T. Tucker, Rev. T. D. P. Stone, R. R. Bishop, Esq., David W. Farquhar, Nathan

Pike, G. C. Travis, Esq., Geo. E. Johnson, A. R. Slocom, Albert Slocom, Rev. W. M. Thayer,. and Rev. F. A. Warfield.

The following sub-committees were appointed: on orator and character of the address, C. C. Abbott, C. S. Wilder, George Batchelder; aid to orator in collection of statistics, S. M. Cutler, Geo. and J. M. Batchelder; refreshments, etc., F. A. Stone, W. L. Payson, Z. Talbot, S. M. Cutler, B. A. Bridges; music, W. L. Payson, E. W. Colburn, J. F. Fiske; order of exercises, Abel Pond, S. M. Cutler, Z. Talbot; toasts, C. S. Wilder, W. L. Payson, Abel Pond, Z. Talbot; printing, B. A. Bridges, C. C. Abbott, J. F. Fiske; salutes, bells, fireworks, etc., B. F. Willey, F. A. Stone, B. A. Bridges; procession, B. A. Bridges, C. C. Abbott, S. M. Cutler; finance, Z. Talbot, J. F. Fiske, Geo. Batchelder, C. C. Abbott; carriages, F. A. Stone, G. H. Eames, W. L. Payson; crockery, C. W. Ellis; meats, B. A. Bridges, bread, C. C. Abbott; carving, G. H. Eames, H. E. Leland; ice, C. S. Wilder; lemonade, B. Luce; canvassing committee for refreshments, Mary T. T. Brooks, Ella Woolford, Ella Leland, Mary F. Wight, Mary S. White, Nellie Farquhar, Sarah J. Bellows, Lottie Fitch, Persis Phipps, Susie Adams, Mary Cratty, Alice Bragg, Katie Driscoll, Nora Curran, Eda B. Partridge, Lizzie Treen, Annie Johnson, Addie F. Rockwood, and Mrs. F. A. Stone and Mrs. S. G. Johnson; committee to arrange tables, etc., Mrs. W. H. Tyler, C. W. Bemis, A. L. Loud, John Farquhar, D. K. Stetson, M. A. Harriman, S. L. Alexander, D. C. Mowry, Charles Wilder, J. H. Dewing, S. Jones Thomson, Wm. Welch, D. D.

O'Connell, and Misses Ellen Morse, Etta Kennedy and Katie Driscoll, they having power to appoint assistants or substitutes.

June 29th, Mt. Hollis grove was prepared ready for the erection of a speaker's stand and tables, seats, etc., which was done under the direction of members of the executive committee. The Fourth of July, 1876, a day in which most Americans sought in a greater or less degree to celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of their nation's independence was one of the finest that could have been desired. At four o'clock salutes were fired and bells rung; an hour later the procession of antiques and horribles formed, and headed by the Holliston Brass Band, J. N. Fiske, chief marshal, marched through the principal streets to the common, where, after the delivery of an oration by Prof. B. G. Ellis, they repaired to the lower Town Hall and partook of refreshments and were dismissed. At ten o'clock a procession was formed near the common in the following order:

Chief Marshal,
Holliston Brass Band,
Post 6 G. A. R.
President of the Day, Orator, Reader of the Declaration of Independence, Clergy of the Town, Invited Guests, Town Officers, Committee of Arrangements, in carriages,
South Framingham Drum Corps,
Platoon of Police,
Steamer Co. No. 1,
Hose Co. No. 1,
Steamer Co. No. 2,
Union Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1,
Citizens in carriages.

The route was to Pleasant through School, Union, Water, Central, Railroad, Church, Washington, Curve, and return *via* Washington to the Congregational church where the following exercises took place:

Voluntary and Anthem of Praise,
Invocation, Rev. J. Gill of the Methodist church,
Singing, "Our Country's Flag,"
Prayer, Rev. G. M. Adams of the Congregational church,
Singing, "Star-Spangled Banner,"
Reading Declaration of Independence, Prof. Geo. Y. Washburn,
Singing of the following Centennial Hymn, by John G. Whittier:

Our fathers' God! from out whose hand
The centuries fall like grains of sand,
We meet today, united, free,
And loyal to our land and thee,
To thank thee for the era done,
And trust thee for the opening one.

Here, where of old, by thy design,
The fathers spoke that word of thine
Whose echo is the glad refrain
Of rended bolt and falling chain,
To grace our festal time, from all
The zones of earth our guests we call.

Be with us while the New World greets
The Old World thronging all its streets,
Unveiling all the triumphs won
By art or toil beneath the sun;
And unto common good ordain
This rivalship of hand and brain.

Oh! make thou us, through centuries long,
In peace secure, justice strong;
Around our gift of freedom draw
The safeguards of thy righteous law;
And, cast in some diviner mould,
Let the new cycle shame the old!

Oration, Rev. Edmund Dowse, Sherborn,
Singing, "Our Country, 'tis of thee,"
Benediction, Rev. Geo. F. Walker of Blackstone.

W. L. Payson had charge of the singing, which was by a select chorus from the choirs of the several churches of the town, Miss Mary S. White and Mr. A. W. Pike presiding at the organ.

The decorations in town were more elaborate than ever seen here before, the display at the residence of Hon. Alden Leland being the finest exhibition of the decorator's art. The house of Steamer No. 1, residence of Maj. Lewis Slocom, Hoffman House and many of the residences on Church street, also in other parts of the town were more or less decorated. Large flags were displayed on Washington and Hollis streets, and new flags and staffs were erected at the G. A. R. headquarters and W. H. Draper's boot factory. In the evening the residence of Rev. G. M. Adams was brilliantly illuminated, and Z. Talbot had a fine display of fireworks at his residence. At the Reform Club Rooms lemonade and refreshments were furnished to all by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, an act fully appreciated by the public.

At the conclusion of the exercises at the church the procession was re-formed and marched to Mt. Hollis grove, where ample refreshments had been provided for all. After the usual blessing, by Rev. F. A. Warfield of Boston, the large gathering proceeded to partake of the dinner in true picnic style. This concluded, after music by the Band the Hon. Alden Leland, president of the day, introduced C. S. Wilder as toast-master, who gave the following sentiments:

"The Day we celebrate." Response by R. R. Bishop, Esq., of Newton.

"Massachusetts, first in war, first in peace, slow in error, fast in truth, sharp in trade, and generous in gifts." Response by Hon. Alden Leland, member of the Governor's Council.

"The Town of Sherborn, with her dignity and morality, her industry and patriotism, a good example for her children, the sons and daughters of Holliston." Response by Rev. Edmund Dowse of Sherborn.

"The Town of Holliston. 'As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined.' True to herself and the teachings of her parent town, may she go on from prospering and to prosper, giving help to the needy, and education to the ignorant, with a firmer devotion to the principles of loyalty, ever assisting in sustaining the honor and supremacy of just laws and right commands." Response by Abel Pond, Esq.

"Our Invited Guests. Friends whom we delight to honor, rejoicing when we rejoice, and sorrowing when we sorrow. We welcome you to our festivities, and cordially invite you to partake of our hospitality." Response by Rev. F. A. Warfield, Boston.

"Educated Intelligence. At once the glory and safety of the Republic. May its influence be always potent in the counsels of the nation." Response by Rev. G. M. Adams of the Congregational church.

"The Clergy — moral guides May they apply to God alone for wisdom to lead the people into right and true paths." Response by Rev. J. Gill of the Methodist church.

"The Press — the popular educator. May it always teach right and true ways of thinking, speaking and acting." Response by E. M. Battles of the *Milford Journal.*

"The Fathers of the Republic," and "Women's Rights." Response to both by Prof. G. Y. Washburn.

"The Reform Club. Men taken from the wrong place and put in the right one." Response by P. R. Johnson, Esq.

"The Grand Army of the Republic. Our defenders when the foe besieged, now almoners of the wounded, widows and orphans." Response by A. E. Chamberlain of Post 6, G. A. R.

"Our Adopted Citizens. An element not to be forgotten in our body politic." Response by Humphrey Sullivan.

"The Fire Department. Through their gallant and patriotic bravery and heroism in our time of need they win and command our love and respect." Response by G. M. French.

"The Sunday School — the nursery of the church." Response by D. C. Mowry.

"The Medical Fraternity — ministering spirits, healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind, bringing comfort to the afflicted and peace to the sorrowing." Response by Dr. A. J. Stevens.

The closing sentiment was offered by Alden Leland, Esq., to which there was no response.

"The mother town of Sherborn. She has this day given her daughter a good *Dowseing*."

The large audience then dispersed to meet in the evening to witness the display of fireworks under the direction of J. H. Prince, and listen to music by the Band, which closed the one-hundredth anniversary of the national independence as celebrated by the citizens of Holliston, July 4th, 1876.

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